

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 H-03 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
IO/P -MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 080663

R 282151Z JUN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 28, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW CONCERNING THE
EGYPTIAN SAFEHAVEN FOR THE SUDANESE TERRORISTS, OR THE
TERRORISTS THAT KILLED THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN THE SUDAN?

A. WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT THE TERRORISTS ARE IN PRISON
IN EGYPT. AND THAT IS ALL I CAN SAY ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. IS THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE PLO OR THE EGYPTIAN
GOVERNMENT, OR HOW DID THIS HAPPEN, THAT THEY GOT PUT INTO
JAIL?

A. MARILYN, YOU WERE NOT HERE YESTERDAY -- WE HAVE BEEN
TALKING ABOUT THIS SUBJECT FOR THREE DAYS NOW. I HAVE SAID
ALL I CAN SAY ON IT AT THIS STAGE, AND I JUST HAVE TO LEAVE
IT THERE.

Q. DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG THEY ARE GOING TO BE IN PRISON?

A. I JUST WANT TO STAND ON THAT. I MEAN THE RECORD CLEARLY
SHOWS THAT WE HAVE A VERY DEEP CONCERN HERE, AND THE
RECORD ALSO SHOWS THE APPROACH WE HAVE TAKEN.

Q. THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT. BUT THIS IS NOT A SATIS-
FACTORY STATEMENT. HOW LONG ARE THEY GOING TO BE IN JAIL?
WHO TOLD YOU THEY ARE GOING TO BE IN JAIL? WHAT ARE THE
CONDITIONS? WHY ARE THEY IN JAIL? THESE ARE ALL OBVIOUS
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QUESTIONS THAT HAVE TO BE ANSWERED.

A. THEY ARE OBVIOUS QUESTIONS. I CANNOT AND WILL NOT
ANSWER THEM. I AM GOING TO STICK WITH JUST WHAT I HAVE
SAID TO YOU.

Q. IS YOUR RETICENCE AT THE REQUEST OF THE EGYPTIAN GOV-
ERNMENT?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY YOU HAVE INFORMATION, WAS THAT OBTAINED UNILATERALLY, INDEPENDENTLY, OR THROUGH THE EGYPTIANS?

A. I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THAT.

Q. I MEAN THAT IS A FAIRLY SAFE, SIMPLE QUESTION.

A. I JUST WANT TO LEAVE IT RIGHT WHERE IT IS.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US IF THIS CAME FROM THE EMBASSY IN CAIRO -- U.S. EMBASSY?

A. YES, I THINK THAT IS SAFE TO ASSUME -- IN LIGHT OF WHAT I HAVE SAID IN THE LAST TWO DAYS, ABOUT DISCUSSIONS GOING ON IN CAIRO. BUT I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO ANY FURTHER TODAY.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE US MORE DETAILS IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO?

A. I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BERNIE, WHETHER I WOULD BE ABLE TO OR NOT.

Q. THE REASON I ASK IS THAT THE CONGRESS IS BEING ASKED TO APPROVE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND AID TO EGYPT. IF YOU DON'T GIVE US MORE INFORMATION, THERE IS A STRONG LINE OF SPECULATION THAT THE EGYPTIANS WILL PUT THEM IN JAIL UNTIL THE AID IS PASSED. UNLESS WE HAVE SOME INDICATION OF WHY THEY ARE IN JAIL -- I MEAN NUMAYRI TURNED THEM OVER TO THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION.
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YOU ARE TELLING US THEY ARE IN AN EGYPTIAN JAIL. WE DON'T

KNOW WHY OR HOW LONG OR WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS.

A. WELL I JUST CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER AT THIS TIME. I'M SORRY.

Q. COULD WE ASK THAT OUR AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN COME AND MEET WITH US?

Q. WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?

A. THE QUESTION WAS COULD WE ASK THAT BILL BREWER, OUR AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN, COME AND MEET WITH YOU. I WILL LOOK INTO IT. BUT FRANKLY, AT THIS PARTICULAR STATE -- HE

ARRIVED BACK YESTERDAY, HE WAS SUPPOSED TO COME IN AFTER THIS LONG FLIGHT HE HAD AND START HIS TALKS AND CONSULTATIONS HERE. AND I WOULD VERY MUCH DOUBT, FRANKLY, THAT HE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO COME AND MEET WITH ALL OF US HERE AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME.

Q. ARE OUR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR EMBASSY IN CAIRO AND THE EGYPTIANS ON THIS ISSUE STILL IN PROGRESS OR HAVE THEY BEEN TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY CONCLUDED.

A. I HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING ON THAT THIS MORNING, WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED OR WHETHER THEY ARE GOING ON. I JUST HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY INFORMATION ON THAT.

Q. DOES THIS ALLEVIATE OUR DISMAY OVER THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION?

A. NO, IT DOES NOT. WE STILL STAND ON OUR STATEMENT THAT THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE ISSUED THREE DAYS AGO, I BELIEVE IT WAS.

Q. WHAT HAVE THE SUDANESE REPLIED TO OUR DISMAY?

A. AMBASSADOR BREWER HAD TWO CONVERSATIONS, AS WE INDICATED YESTERDAY, OR THE DAY BEFORE, ON THE RECORD, WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT. I AM NOT GOING TO GO UNCLASSIFIED

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INTO THE REPORT OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS.

Q. I ASKED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, AND I THINK YOU DIDN'T REFUSE TO COMMENT, ON WHAT THE PROSPECT WAS OF RE-EXAMINING THE U.S. AID PROGRAM TO THE SUDAN. HAS THERE BEEN ANY MOVEMENT? ARE WE GOING TO CUT OFF AID, INCREASE IT, LEAVE IT AS IT IS?

A. NO -- I STAND WHERE I WAS ON THAT TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO, I.E., I SAID THAT AMBASSADOR BREWER WAS COMING BACK ON CONSULTATION TO REVIEW THE ENTIRE SITUATION. AND HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE STARTED HIS CONSULTATIONS THIS MORNING. SO WE HAVE NOT MOVED FROM WHERE IT WAS TWO DAYS AGO, OR THREE DAYS AGO, ON THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE REPORTS IN THE BALTIMORE SUN THIS MORNING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN, SIGNING AN ATOMIC ENERGY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT?

A. YES, I HAVE A LITTLE BIT ON THAT FOR YOU.

WE HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY DISCUSSING COOPERATION WITH IRAN IN

THE NUCLEAR POWER FIELD SINCE ABOUT MID-MAY, WHEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AEC, DIXY LEE RAY, VISITED IRAN. AND WE EXPECT THAT CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF REACTOR FUEL WILL BE SIGNED IN TEHRAN SOON. ON THE QUESTION OF THE DELIVERIES OF FUEL, THEY WOULD, OF COURSE, BE SUBJECT TO AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION.

Q. IS THIS JUST FUEL AND NOT REACTORS?

A. THERE WILL BE REACTORS ALSO. DELIVERY OF FUEL, OF COURSE, WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION CONTAINING THE NECESSARY VERY STRICT SAFEGUARDS.

Q. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY REACTORS IRAN HAS ALREADY OBTAINED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES?

A. I DO NOT.

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Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THEY HAVE OR NOT?

A. WELL, I READ SOMETHING IN THE PAPER TODAY ABOUT THE SHAH OF IRAN'S VISIT TO PARIS. THAT IS THE ONLY THING. AND YOU READ THAT ALSO. AND THAT IS THE ONLY THING. I AM JUST NOT BRIEFED.

Q. WHY DO WE NEED TO SELL THEM REACTORS IF THEY HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED, I THINK THE FIGURE IS, FIVE FROM PARIS?

A. WELL, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY. FOR OUR PART, THE DECISION TO SELL TOIRAN NUCLEAR FUEL IS JUST A NATURAL PART OF OUR LONG-STANDING AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN. AND IN ADDITION I MIGHT SAY THAT THERE IS A BELIEF ON THE IRANIAN SIDE, AND WE AGREE WITH IT, THAT THERE IS AN ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION FOR IT.

YOU SAY THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON SINCE MAY. CORRECT ME IF I AM WRONG, BUT DID THE SHAH NOT ANNOUNCE WITHIN THE LAST WEEK OR TWO THAT HE INTENDED TO OBTAIN NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR IRAN?

A. NO, THAT WAS DENIED CATEGORICALLY. THIS WAS JUST BEFORE THE SHAH, I THINK WAS DUE TO LAND IN PARIS -- AND I THINK IT WAS THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS, AS I RECALL, THAT CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES INDEPENDENTLY SATISFIED THAT THE SHAH DOES NOT INTEND TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEM?

A. YES. AS YOU KNOW, IRAN HAS SIGNED THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, AND WE HAVE NO DOUBT IN OUR MIND ON THAT SUBJECT.

Q. WE ARE GOING TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO SELL THEM NUCLEAR REACTORS. THIS IS NOT JUST FUEL THAT WOULD BE USED FOR THE FRENCH REACTORS.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. BACK TO THIS IRANIAN THINGFOR A MOMENT, WHO WAS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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IRAN IN MID-MAY?

A. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AEC, DIXY LEE RAY.

Q. HOW MANY REACTORS ARE INVOLVED IN THIS THING WITH IRAN?

A. TWO.

Q. DO YOU KNOW THE MEGAWATTS?

A. NO. I AM NO TECHNICAL EXPERT ON THAT. END QUOTE. SISCO

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Message Attributes

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